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AN EASY

into Short Questions

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

*of England, Church
of Catechism*

RIGHT UNDERSTANDING

OF THE

Church Catechism.



O X F O R D,
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INTRODUCTION

TO THE

RIGHT UNDERSTANDING

OF THE

Church Catechism



OF THE
BIBLE



A N
EASY INTRODUCTION
To the Right Understanding of
The Church Catechism.



The First PART.

Quest. **H**OW many Covenants are there ?

Answ. Two.

Q. What do you mean by those Covenants ?

A. The Agreements that God made with Man.

Q. What are those Covenants called ?

A. The Covenant of *Works*, and the Covenant of *Grace*.

Q. What did God require under the First Covenant.

A. The Living without Sin.

Q. What doth he require under the Second Covenant ?

A. Repentance and Faith.

Q. Under what Covenant are you ?

A. Under the Covenant of *Grace*.

Q. When was you admitted into it ?

A. When I was Baptized.

Q. What is God's Part of that Covenant, according to your Catechism ? Or, What did God Covenant or Agree that you should be then made ?

A. *A Member of Christ, a Child of God, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Q. What is your Part of this Covenant ? Or, what was agreed that you should then do ?

A. *Renounce the Devil and all his Works, the Poms and Vanities of this wicked World, and all the sinful Lusts of the Flesh : Secondly, That I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith : And, Thirdly, That I should keep God's Holy Will and Commandments, and Walk in the same all the Days of my Life.*

Q. Tell me then in short what you covenanted to Renounce ?

A. *The Devil, the World, and the Flesh.*

Q. What to believe ?

A. *All the Articles of the Christian Faith.*

Q. What to Keep ?

A. *God's Holy Will and Commandments.*

Q. But why do you think you are bound to Renounce the Devil, &c.

A. *Because we are commanded to resist the Devil, and the Gospel teacheth us, That denying Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, we should live righteously and soberly in this present World. Tit. 2. 12.*

Q. Who acted on God's Part when this Covenant was made for you ?

A. *The Minister of God.*

Q. Who acted on your Part ?

A. *My Godfathers and Godmothers.*

Q. Was you then put into a State of Salvation ?

A. *es.*

A. Yes.

Q. By whose Help do you hope to continue in it?

A. By God's Help.

Q. And what must you do that you may continue in it?

A. I must pray daily unto God to give me his Grace, and that I may continue in the same unto my Life's End.

Q. Why must you pray daily for God's Grace?

A. Because I am every Day in Danger of falling by Sin from this State of Grace.



The Second P A R T.

Q. **W**HICH is the Second Part of the Church-Catechism?

A. The Apostles Creed.

Q. What doth that teach you?

A. All that I am to believe: Or, all the Articles of the Christian Faith.

Q. Say the First Article?

A. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Q. What is the first Thing that you learn from that Article?

A. I learn, First, that there is a God.

Q. What is the second Thing that you learn from it?

A. That that God is the Father of all.

Q. What is the third Thing that you learn from that Article?

A. That that Father is Almighty.

A 3

Q. What

Q What is to be Almighty ?

A. Able to do all Things.

Q How do you prove this ?

A. From our Saviour's own Words, *Abba, Father, all Things are possible unto thee.* Mark 14, 36.

Q What is the Fourth Thing you learn from hence ?

A. That *that* Father Almighty is Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Q What do you learn from the whole Article, according to your Catechism ?

A. To believe in God the Father, who made me and all the World.

Q How is this Article expressed in the *Nicene Creed* ?

A. *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all Things Visible and invisible.*

Q What is meant by Visible ?

A. The Things that are seen.

Q What by Invisible ?

A. The Things that are not seen.

Q Were then any Things made, which we do not, or cannot see ?

A. Yes.

Q Who was the Maker of them ?

A. God the Father.

Q Prove it.

A. *In the Beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth.* Gen. 1. 1.

Q Who is the second Person you learn to Believe in ?

A. God the Son.

Q What is he called in the Apostles Creed ?

A. Jesus Christ.

Q What

Q. What doth the Word *Jesus* signify ?

A. It signifieth a Saviour.

Q. Why was the Son of God so called ?

A. *Tbou shalt call his Name Jesus ; for he shall save his People from their Sins.* Matt. 1. 21.

Q. How doth he in the first Place save them from the Power of Sin ?

A. By his Grace.

Q. How from the Punishment of it ?

A. By his Blood.

Q. What doth the Word *Christ* signify ?

A. It signifieth Anointed.

Q. Why was the Son of God so called ? Or, What was he anointed to be ?

A. Our *King, Priest, and Prophet.*

Q. The Office of a *King* is to govern : What doth Christ govern ?

A. His Church.

Q. By whom doth he govern it ?

A. By the Bishops of it : *Lo, I am with you alway, even to the End of the World,* Matt. 28. 20.

Q. The Office of a *Priest* was to offer Sacrifices, and intercede for the People : What Sacrifice did Christ offer ?

A. His own Body on the Cross.

Q. Where doth he intercede for us ?

A. At the Right-hand of God.

Q. The Office of a *Prophet* is to teach, as well as to foretell Things to come : What doth Christ Teach ?

A. He teacheth us more perfectly the Will of God.

Q. Why is he said to be our Lord ?

A. Because, *He is God over all.* Rom. 9. 5. And the Lord of all Christians.

Q. Say this Article in the Words of the Apostles Creed ?

A. *And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord.*

Q. How do you prove that this Jesus was the Son of God ?

A. From that Voice from Heaven, *This is my beloved Son.* Matt. 3, 17.

Q. How is this Article expressed in the Nicene Creed ?

A. *And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God ; Begotten of his Father before all Words, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten not Made, (being of one Substance with the Father,) by whom all Things were made.*

Q. Prove the Son to be of the same Nature with the Father ?

A. *I and my Father are ONE.* John 10, 30.

Q. Was this Son of God made Man ?

A. Yes.

Q. How was that ?

A. By being conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. Luke 1, 30. &c.

Q. How is this expressed in the Nicene Creed ?

A. *Who for us Men and for our Salvation, came down from Heaven, and was Incarnate by the Holy Ghost, of the Virgin Mary, and was made Man.*

Q. What is the meaning of being Incarnate ?

A. Being made Flesh.

Q. How do you prove this ?

A. *The Word was made Flesh.* John 1, 14. *God sent forth his Son, made of a Woman.* Gal. 4, 4.

Q. Where was the Son of God before he was made Flesh, or made Man ?

A. In Heaven.

Q. For

Q. For whose Sake did he come down from Heaven ?

A. *For us Men and for our Salvation he came down from Heaven.*

Q. Did the Son of God after he was made Flesh suffer in it ?

A. Yes.

Q. Under whom did he suffer ?

A. Under Pontius Pilate.

Q. What were his Sufferings ?

A. He was Crucified, Dead and Buried.

Q. How long did he continue in the State of the Dead ?

A. The Third Day he rose again from the Dead.

Q. How is this expressed in the Nicene Creed ?

A. *And the Third Day he rose again from the Dead, according to the Scriptures.*

Q. Why is that added, according to the Scriptures ?

A. Because the Resurrection of Christ had been long before foretold in them. *Psalm 16, 8, 9, 10.*

Q. What became of Christ after his Resurrection ?

A. He ascended into Heaven.

Q. To what Place in Heaven ?

A. *To the Right-Hand of God.*——St. Stephen saw him there. *Acts 7, 55.*

Q. Shall he ever come from thence ?

A. *He shall come from thence to judge the Quick and the Dead.*

Q. How is this expressed in the Nicene Creed ?

A. *He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the Right-Hand of the Father ; and he shall come again with Glory to judge both the Quick and the Dead.*

Q. What do you mean by Quick and Dead ?

A. All Persons that ever lived in the World, or shall be alive at his Second coming.

Q. What do you learn from all these Articles concerning the Lord Christ Jesus ?

A. I learn First how he was Humbled, and afterwards Exalted.

Q. Say the Articles that concern his Humiliation.

A. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was Crucified, Dead and Buried, he descended into Hell.

Q. Say the Articles that concern his Exaltation.

A. The Third Day He rose again from the Dead, He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the Right-Hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to Judge the Quick and the Dead.

Q. And what do you learn from this Second Part of the Apostles Creed ?

A. To believe in God the Son, who hath redeemed me and all Mankind: Who gave himself a Ransom for all. 1.Tim. 2, 6. Tasted Death for every Man. Heb. 2, 9.

Q. Who is the Third Person you learn to believe in ?

A. God the Holy Ghost.

Q. What saith the Nicene Creed concerning this Divine Person ?

A. And I believe in the Holy-Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, who Proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is Worshipped and Glorified, who spake by the Prophets.

Q. What Life is the Holy-Ghost the Lord and Giver of ?

A. All spiritual Life.

Q. What then do you believe concerning him ?

A. That

A. That he sanctifieth me, and all the elect People of God : For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. Rom. 8, 14.

Q. How is he worshipped together with the Father and the Son ?

A. As one God.

Q. What are the Father, Son, and Holy-Ghost called when they are considered as one God ?

A. The Trinity.

Q. And why do you believe in the Name of these Three Persons ?

A. Because I was Baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy-Ghost : And it is written, Mark 16, 16. *He that believeth not shall be Damned.*

Q. What doth the Fourth Part of the Apostles Creed relate to ?

A. The Church of Christ, and the Privileges of it.

Q. How many Privileges did Christ purchase for his Church ?

A. Four : *The Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins, The Resurrection of the Body, and The Life Everlasting.*

Q. With whom have the Saints Communion and Fellowship ?

A. Truly their Fellowship is with the Father and the Son. 1 John 1, 3. And their Bodies are the Temples of the Holy Ghost : 1 Cor. 6, 19. God dwelleth in them, and they in God. 1 John 4, 16.

Q. From hence must arise the highest Communications of Grace and Mercy, What other Communion have they ?

A. The Saints have not only Communion with God,

but with one another also, in all the Offices of Piety and] Charity.

Q. What Benefit have they from this ?

A. Chiefly the Benefit of one another's Prayers.

Q. What Benefit have they from the Second Privilege ?

A. The Pardon of Sin.

Q. What from the Third and Fourth ?

A. The Resurrection of their Bodies to an Everlasting Life.

Q. But does there not remain an Everlasting Life to the Wicked ? Where must their Abode be ?

A. In Hell, with the Devil and his Angels.

Q. Prove that there are Two such States of Happiness and Misery.

A. *These shall go away into everlasting Punishment, but the Righteous into Life Eternal.* Matt. 25, 46.



The Third PART.

Quest. **W**HICH is the Third Part of the Church Catechism ?

Ans. The Ten Commandments.

Q. Say the first Commandment.

A. *Thou shalt have no other Gods but me.*

Q. What is to *have* the Lord for your God, according to your Catechism ?

A. To Believe in him, to Fear him, and to Love him with all my Heart, with all my Mind, with all my Soul, and with all my Strength.

Q. How then may you Sin against this Commandment?

A. By not believing there is a God : Or, by not fearing, and loving him above all Things.

Q. Say the Second Commandment ?

A. *Thou shalt not make to thyself any Graven Image, &c.*

Q. What is chiefly forbid by this Commandment ?

A. The worshipping Graven Images.

Q. How must you not worship them ?

A. I must not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Q. But what is to worship God ?

A. To put my whole Trust in him, to bow down unto him, to pray unto him, and to praise him.

Q. What is here threatened those that do not worship God as they ought to do ?

A. *That God will visit the Sins of the Fathers upon the Children, unto the Third and Fourth Generation.*

Q. But

Q. But what is on the other Hand promised them that do worship him with Reverence and Godly Fear ?

A. *That he will shew Mercy unto Thousands in them that love him, and keep his Commandments.*

Q. What is forbid by the Third Commandment ?

A. The taking God's Name in vain.

Q. Why is it that we must not do this ?

A. *Because God will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in Vain.*

Q. What is the Meaning of not holding him guiltless ?

A. That God will severely punish him.

Q. What then is required by this Commandment ?

A. *To Honour God's Holy Name and his Word.*

Q. Say the Fourth Commandment.

A. *Remember that thou keep Holy the Sabbath Day, &c.*

Q. What is enjoined in this Commandment ?

A. The keeping the Sabbath-Day Holy.

Q. Who must do this ?

A. *We, Our Man-Servants and Maid Servants, our Cattle, and the Stranger that is within our Gates, and in short all that belong to us.*

Q. What Reason is given for this ?

A. *For in six Days the Lord made Heaven and Earth.*

Q. Say the fifth Commandment.

A. *Honour thy Father and thy Mother, &c.*

Q. What is required by this Commandment according to your Catechism !

A. *To Love, Honour and Succour my Father and Mother, to Honour and Obey the King, and all that are put in Authority under him ; to submit myself to all my Governors, Teachers, spiritual Pastors and Masters ; to behave myself lowly and reverently to all my Betters.*

Q. How then must you behave yourself towards your
natural

natural Parents, your Father and Mother ?

A. I must Love, Honour, and Succour them.

Q. How must you behave yourself towards your civil Parents, the King, and all that are put in Authority under him ?

A. I must Honour and Obey them.

Q. How must you behave yourself towards your spiritual Parents, your Teachers, your spiritual Pastors, and Masters ?

A. I must submit myself to them.

Q. And what may you expect if you do this ?

A. That my Days may be long in the Land, which the Lord my God giveth me.

Q. Say the Sixth Commandment.

A. Thou shalt do no Murder.

Q. How may you Sin against this Commandment without murdering any one ?

A. By bearing Malice, or Hatred in my Heart, or hurting any one by Word or Deed.

Q. Say the seventh Commandment.

A. Thou shalt not commit Adultery.

Q. How may you sin against this Commandment, without committing the great Sin of Adultery ?

A. By not keeping my Body in Temperance, Sobriety, and Chastity.

Q. Say the eighth Commandment.

A. Thou shalt not Steal.

Q. How may you sin against this Commandment, without being guilty of notorious Thefts and Robberies ?

A. By Picking and Stealing, and not being true and just in all my Dealings.

Q. Say the ninth Commandment ?

A. Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.

Q. How may you sin against this Commandment ?

A. By

A. By not keeping my Tongue from Evil-speaking, Lying, and Slandering.

Q. Say the Tenth Commandment.

A. *Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's House, &c.*

Q. How may you sin against this Commandment?

A. By coveting, or desiring other Men's Goods.

Q. What is the best way to prevent this?

A. To learn and labour truly to get my own Living, and to do my Duty in that State of Life, unto which it shall please God to call me.

Q. How many Tables are these Ten Commandments reduced to?

A. To two Tables.

Q. What doth the First teach you?

A. My Duty towards God.

Q. What the Second?

A. My Duty towards my Neighbour.

Q. Which did our Saviour say was the *first* and *great* Commandment?

A. *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, with all thy Mind, with all thy Soul, and with all thy Strength.* Mat. 22. 37, 38.

Q. What Commandments do you think our Saviour refers to in that Answer?

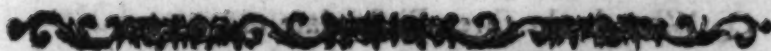
A. To the Commandments of the First Table.

Q. What do you learn from thence?

A. That the Transgression of them is the greatest Sin.

Q. But why are you bound to keep the Commandments of both Tables?

A. Because it was promised for me when I was baptized, that I should keep God's Holy Will and Commandments all the Days of my Life, and it is written, Mat. 19, 17. *If thou wilt enter into Life keep the Commandments.*



The Fourth PART.

Quest. **W**HAT do you learn from the three first Parts of the Church-Catechism?

Ans. All that I am able to renounce, believe, and do.

Q. Are you able to do these Things of yourself?

A. No, not without God's especial Grace.

Q. What must you do for the obtaining it?

A. Use the Means of Grace.

Q. What are those?

A. Prayer, and the Sacraments.

Q. What Prayer have you in the Church-Catechism?

A. The Lord's Prayer.

Q. By whom was that Prayer composed?

A. By the Lord Christ Jesus.

Q. To whom do you speak in that Prayer?

A. To God.

Q. What are you there encouraged to call God?

A. Father.

Q. What do you learn from calling God Father?

A. To pray with more Hope.

Q. What from calling him our heavenly Father?

A. To pray with more Reverence.

Q. And what do you further learn from hence?

A. To be truly thankful to him, who hath given us Power to become the Sons of God. John 1, 12.

Q. How

Q. How many Petitions are there in this Prayer ?

A. Six.

Q. What do the three First relate to ?

A. To God's Glory.

Q. What the three last ?

A. To our own Wants.

Q. Say the three first Petitions.

A. *Hallowed be thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.*

Q. What do you pray for in these Petitions according to your Catechism ?

A. I desire my Lord God our Heavenly Father, who is the Giver of all Goodness, to send his Grace to me, and to all People, that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him, as we ought to do.

Q. What may you then be supposed to pray for in the first Petition ?

A. That I and all the World may worship God.

Q. What in the second ?

A. That I and all the World may serve him.

Q. What in the third ?

A. That I and all the World may obey him.

Q. Whom must you imitate in your Obedience ?

A. The Angels and Saints in Heaven.

Q. Whence do you learn this ?

A. From being directed to pray, that God's Will may be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.

Q. Say the first Petition that concerns your own Wants.

A. *Give us this Day our daily Bread.*

Q. What do you pray for in that Petition, according to your Catechism ?

A. For all Things that be needful, both for our Souls and Bodies.

Q. Why

Q. Why do you think the Word Bread is used ?

A. To teach us, that if God giveth us no more than is needful, we ought to be contented with it.

Q. Say the next Petition.

A. *Forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us.*

Q. What do you acknowledge in that Petition ?

A. That we have all sinned against God, *That there is no Man that sinneth not.* 2 Chr. 6, 36.

Q. What do you pray for in it according to your Catechism ?

A. That he will be merciful unto us, and forgive us our Sins.

Q. What are our Sins called in that Petition ?

A. Trespases.

Q. Upon what Condition do you pray to have your Trespases or Sins forgiven ?

A. Upon Condition that I forgive them that Trespas against me.

Q. Say the last Petition ?

A. *Lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil.*

Q. What do you pray for in that Petition, according to your Catechism ?

A. I pray that it may please him to save and defend us from all Dangers, Ghostly and Bodily, and that he will keep us from all Sin and Wickedness, and from our Ghostly Enemy, and from Everlasting Death.

Q. But what is the chief Thing you pray for in this Petition, *Lead us not into Temptation* ?

A. That God will keep us from all Sin and Wickedness.

Q. And in order to this, what Dangers do you pray to be delivered from ?

A. All

A. All Dangers, Ghostly and Bodily.

Q. Whence arise your Ghostly Dangers ?

A. From Evil Spirits. *Eph. 6, 12.*

Q. Whence your Bodily Dangers.

A. From Evil Inclinations.

Q. What Evils do you chiefly pray to be delivered from ?

A. Those that are Eternal.

Q. And why do you hope, that God will do those Things that you have prayed for ?

A. This I trust he will do of his Mercy and Goodness, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. What then are you to depend upon in all your Prayers ?

A. The Mercy and Goodness of God, and Christ's Intercession,





The Fifth PART.

Quest. **W**HAT doth the fifth Part of the Church-Catechism teach you ?

Ans. The Doctrine of the Sacraments.

Q. How many Sacraments are there ?

A. *Two only that are generally necessary to Salvation.*

Q. Which are they ?

A. *Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*

Q. Who hath Power to ordain a Sacrament ?

A. No one but Christ ; a Sacrament must be ordained by Christ himself.

Q. To what Ends and Purposes are Sacraments ordained ?

A. As Means whereby we receive Grace, and as Pledges to assure us of it.

Q. How many Parts are there in a Sacrament ?

A. *Two : An outward and visible Sign, and an inward and spiritual Grace.*

Q. Are there so many Parts in Baptism ?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the outward Part or Form in it ?

A. *Water wherein the Person is baptized, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.*

Q. What is the inward and spiritual Grace annexed to, or that goes along with that outward and visible Sign ?

A. *A Death unto Sin, and a new Birth unto Righteousness.*

Q. What is meant by the Death unto Sin ?

A. A Power

A. A Power of dying unto Sin.

Q. What by the New Birth unto Righteousness.

A. A Power of living unto Righteousness.

Q. How do you prove that there are such Powers given, or made sure to us in Baptism?

A. Because Baptism is called the *Washing of Regeneration*. Tit. 3. 5. And *we are not only baptized with Water, but with the Spirit*. John 3. 5.

Q. How comes it to pass that these supernatural Powers are necessary?

A. Because, *We are born in Sin, and the Children of Wrath*. Eph. 2. 3.

Q. What do you mean by being born in Sin?

A. The bringing a sinful Nature into the World with us.

Q. Tell me in two Words what is required of Persons to be baptized?

A. *Repentance and Faith*.

Q. What Sort of Repentance is required?

A. Repentance whereby we forsake Sin.

Q. What Sort of Faith is required?

A. A Faith, whereby we stedfastly believe the Promises of God, made to us in that Sacrament.

Q. What are those Promises?

A. All the Promises of the Gospel-Covenant: *Baptism* being the Sign and Seal of it.

Q. When are grown Persons, that have not been baptized, thus to repent and believe?

A. Before Baptism.

Q. When those that have been baptized in their Infancy?

A. After Baptism: When they come to Age they are bound to perform them.

Q. For the Remembrance of how *many Things* was the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper ordained?

A. Two : *The continual Remembrance of the Sacrifice of the Death of Christ, and of the Benefits which we receive thereby.*

Q. By what do you mean ?

A. By the Sacrifice of Christ's Death.

Q. What is the outward Part, or Sign of the Lord's Supper ?

A. *Bread and Wine, which the Lord hath commanded to be received.*

Q. What Text have you to prove this Command ; or this Sacrament is Christ's Ordinance ?

A. Luke 22, 19. *Do this in Remembrance of me.*

Q. What is the other Part of this Sacrament ? viz. the inward and spiritual Grace.

A. *The Body and Blood of Christ.*

Q. How is that proved ?

A. From the Words of the Institution, *This is my Body, this is my Blood.*

Q. But by whom are the Body and Blood received ?

A. Only by the Faithful.

Q. After what Manner do they receive it ?

A. After a spiritual Manner.

Q. How is this ?

A. By verily and truly receiving the Benefits of them.

Q. What are the Benefits we thereby receive ?

A. Grace for our Natures, and Pardon for our Sins.

Q. By which of these are our Souls strengthened in this Sacrament ?

A. By Grace.

Q. And by which are they refreshed ?

A. By the Pardon of our Sins.

Q. What is required of them who come to the Lord's Supper ?

A. To

A. To examine themselves.

Q. What are they to examine?

A. Their Repentance and Faith, Thanksgiving and Charity.

Q. And why are we to examine ourselves as to these Things?

A. Not that we should stay away, but fit ourselves for that Holy Sacrament. *Let a Man examine himself and so let him eat, &c.* 1 Cor. 11, 28.

THE END.

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